

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 2-6 and 8-13 are pending, with Claims 1 and 7 canceled by the present amendment.

In the Official Action, Claims 2-6 and 8-13 were allowed and Claims 1 and 7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Obuchi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,597,674, hereinafter Obuchi) in view of Tiedemann (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0142776).

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the indication of allowable subject matter.

Accordingly, in view of the present amendment and in light of the previous discussion, Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is in condition for allowance and respectfully request an early and favorable action to that effect.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Bradley D. Lytle
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 40,073

Michael E. Monaco
Registration No. 52,041

Customer Number

22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220
(OSMMN 03/06)
BDL:MM\la
I:\ATTY\MM\215255US-AM2.DOC